



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

April 29, 2005

News Release

ALBANIAN ILLEGAL ALIEN CONVICTED OF FIREARMS POSSESSION, ILLEGAL ALIEN HARBORING

Witnesses say restaurant owner beat employee when he asked to be paid

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa—An illegal alien who owns a Vinton restaurant was sentenced in federal court here today for firearms violations and harboring an illegal alien employee, the result of an investigation by the Vinton Police Department, Benton County Sheriff's Office and local U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents.

Ali Ademi, 34, a citizen of Albania, was sentenced in District Court for the Northern District of Iowa to 47 months in prison and three years of supervised release for one count of possessing firearms and ammunition as an illegal alien, and one count of harboring an illegal alien. Ademi pleaded guilty to the charges Jan. 14. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kandice A. Wilcox prosecuted the case.

During Ademi's sentencing this morning, witnesses described his violent behavior toward restaurant employees. A former waitress and a former dishwasher who had both worked at Café 218 described an incident in which Ademi assaulted the dishwasher, beat him with a large metal kitchen spoon, and threatened him with a knife. The assault occurred when the dishwasher, also an illegal alien, asked Ademi for his wages after he had worked long hours for at least 10 straight days.

"Ali Ademi's conduct in hiring and physically abusing illegal aliens is egregious and will not be tolerated," said Resident Agent-in-Charge Michael Vail of the Cedar Rapids ICE office. "Iowans should know that ICE and the U.S. Attorney will take aggressive enforcement action against abusers." Anyone who has information regarding aliens working for abusive employers are encouraged to call 1-800-DHS-2ICE to file a report.

Vail said that because Ademi is an illegal alien, ICE has placed a "detainer" on him so that when he finishes serving his prison sentence, he will be turned over to ICE and placed into deportation proceedings.

The case began when the Vinton Police Department contacted Cedar Rapids ICE special agents Oct. 14 for assistance in investigating an assault at Café 218. ICE special agents interviewed past and present restaurant employees, and during the execution of a search warrant they seized a 12-gauge shotgun and ammunition at the restaurant. They later seized another 12-gauge shotgun, a .38 caliber pistol and more ammunition during a search of Ademi's residence.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.